



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Participants Needed for a Statewide Private Well Water Filtration Study**

(MADISON, July 10, 2006) – The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services invites 100 private well owners in the state to participate in a study on the effectiveness of household water filtration / treatment devices at removing contaminants. For those who qualify, a water quality test will be conducted at no cost to the participant.

To qualify, households must have a private well that is used for cooking and drinking and an installed Point-of-Entry or Point-of-Use water filtration system. Point-of-entry water treatment systems treat all of the water entering and being used in the home. Sedimentation filters, iron control treatment, water softener and a chlorination system used to control bacteria in the well are all considered point-of-entry treatment systems. Point-of-use water treatment systems treat part of the water in the home water distribution system, usually at one faucet. The water is typically only used for drinking and cooking. Reverse osmosis, distillation and activated carbon filtration are examples of point-of-use water treatment systems.

The objective of the study is to determine if households with private wells that are using water treatment devices are protected from potential exposure to contaminants found in their well water. At each household, the researchers will administer a questionnaire to gather information on the selection of the water treatment type, maintenance and the reasons for use. They will gather samples of water pre-filtration and post-filtration, and the samples will be analyzed for contaminants such as: bacteria, nitrates, and metals. The results of the analysis will be shared with the participant.

The Department of Health and Family Services will be recruiting households and sampling households throughout the summer. Private well owners who are interested in this statewide study should contact MaryLee Haughwout at (608) 266-6762 ([HaughMA@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:HaughMA@dhfs.state.wi.us)) or Lynda Knobeloch at (608) 266-0923.

For more information about water issues, visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/Water/index.htm>

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